



Rhode Island Department of Elderly Affairs
John O. Pastore Center
Benjamin Rush Building #55
35 Howard Avenue
Cranston, RI 02920

IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO PHARMACISTS

Claims processing for members of the RI Pharmaceutical Assistance to the Elderly (RIPAE) and Medicare Prescription Drug Plans (Part D)

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW!

The Rhode Island Department of Elderly Affairs (DEA) is making every effort to make sure that members of the RIPAE program receive the appropriate benefits that they are entitled to under state law.

RIPAE members who have Part D plans may use their RIPAE card to help them pay prescription drug costs when the client would be required to pay 100% of the prescription cost. In most cases, this means that the RIPAE client is in the deductible or coverage gap phase of their Part D plan.

To ensure that RIPAE members who also have Part D plans receive the maximum benefits under both programs, these procedures must be followed:

- ✓ Members presenting a RIPAE card **must** be asked if they also have a Part D plan.
- ✓ For those with Part D plans, the claim must be submitted to the Part D plan for payment **FIRST**.
- ✓ If the RIPAE client is required to pay 100% of the prescription, the claim must be backed out of the system and submitted to RIPAE for payment. The claim will be paid through RIPAE at the appropriate benefit rate of 60%, 30%, or 15%. This procedure will ensure that the RIPAE client receives the full benefit of the prescription cost in their Part D plan in their deductible or coverage gap.
- ✓ If the claim shows a RIPAE member has a Plan D co-payment, the claim **CANNOT** be submitted to RIPAE, **even if RIPAE is cheaper than their Plan D co-payment.**

Your strict adherence to this procedure is required.

Please be advised that DEA is working to resolve issues surrounding coordination of benefits for RIPAE and Part D members as soon as possible. You will be informed of any changes in this regard.

If you have any questions please call BioScrip at 1-800-213-5640.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,
RI Department of Elderly Affairs

